

Bay Area Conservancy Program



The First Year Report

1999-2000
(final)

prepared by the
BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL
MARCH 2001

About this Report

The Bay Area Conservancy Program was established through State legislation in 1997.

*Sponsored by the Bay Area Open Space Council, and authored by
Senator Byron Sher, the Program is administered by the Coastal Conservancy.*

The Program received its first funding in July of 1999.

This report summarizes how the first year funds have been expended.

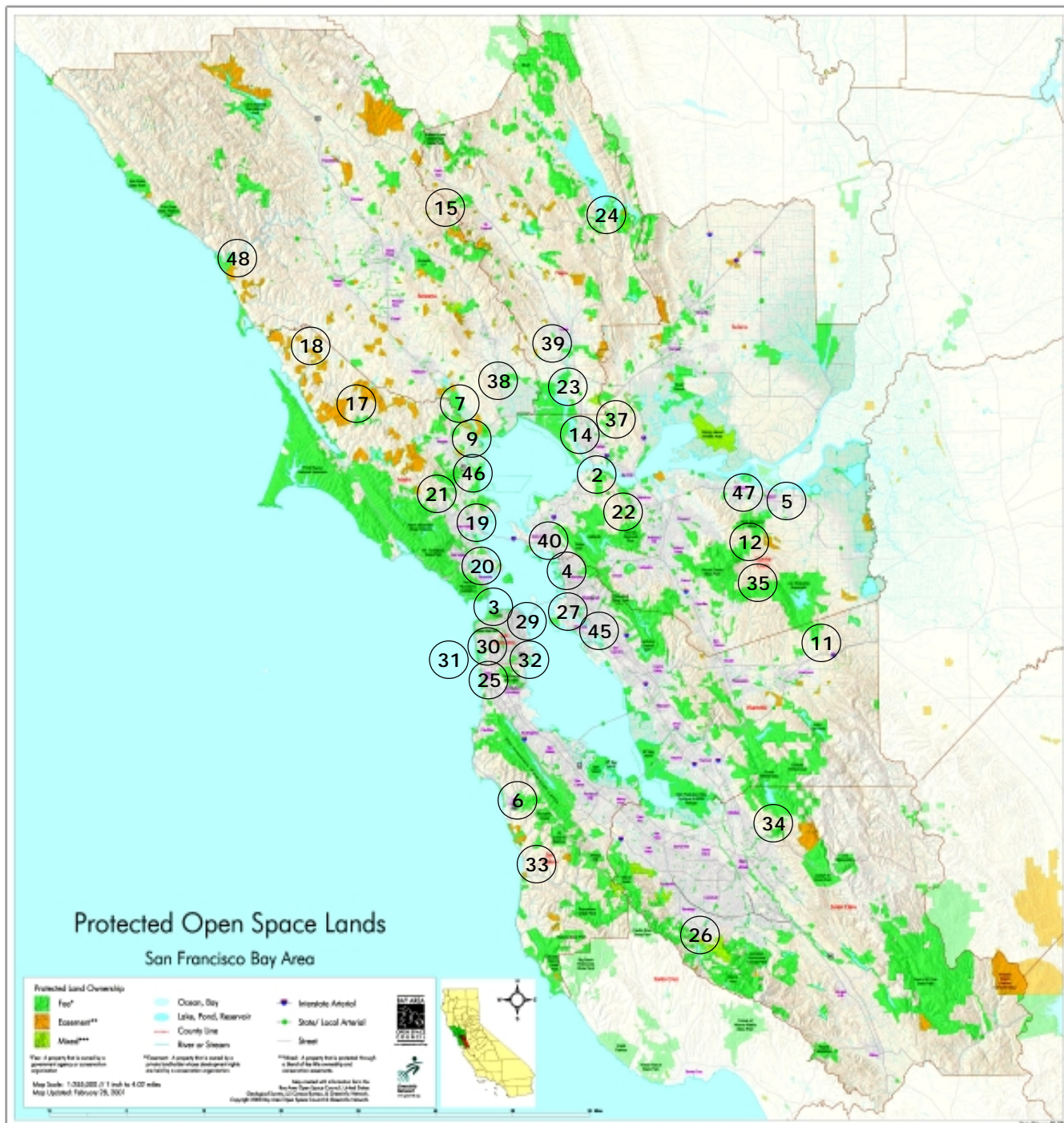
*Grants have been awarded in all nine Bay Area counties within the jurisdiction
of the Program, and for the full range of Program responsibilities--
regionally significant public parks, trails, natural habitat preservation and restoration,
farmland protection, and environmental education. All acquisitions
have been with willing sellers, and have involved both the purchase
of fee title ownership and conservation easements. Grant recipients
have included public agencies and nonprofit organizations.*

*Despite the diversity of grant recipients and project purposes, all of the funded projects share
several characteristics: They are regionally significant. Each achieves multiple goals. All are
cooperative ventures bringing together many agencies and organizations. They close
institutional gaps and bring coherence and comprehensiveness to individual efforts.*

*The Bay Area Open Space Council is excited about the progress
that has been made this year by the Bay Area Conservancy Program,
and is pleased to present this progress report.*

For more information

BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL
530 BUSH STREET, ROOM 303, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108. PHONE (510) 654-6591
www.openspacecouncil.org



SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS

BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM FY 1999 APPROPRIATION

GRANT RECIPIENT/PROJECT -ID#	FUNDING	
	CONSERVANCY	MATCHING
BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL COUNCIL		
#1 Up to eight Ridge Trail projects (planning, mapping, and acquisition)	\$300,000	\$150,000
CARQUINEZ REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER *		
#2 Elkhorn Creek restoration project	\$22,000	\$21,000
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO		
#3 Crissy Field Wetlands	\$49,500	TBD
CITY OF ALBANY		
#4 Cordonices Creek restoration final engineering & design	\$100,000	\$97,000
CITY OF BRENTWOOD		
#5 Marsh Creek-Griffith Park	\$63,000	\$46,250
CITY OF HALF MOON BAY		
#6 Half Moon Bay bluffs restoration	\$15,000	\$5,000
CITY OF PETALUMA		
#7 Petaluma Marsh Access	\$350,000	TBD
COASAL CONSERVANCY		
#8 <i>Spartina</i> control	\$200,000	\$1,790,000
#9 Bel marin Keys acquisition planning	\$145,000	TBD
#10 Geographic Information Systems Mapping Services	\$100,000	TBD
EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT		
#11 Bosley/Weaver acquisition (Brushy Peak), phase II (395 acres)	\$300,000	\$825,250
#12 Clayton Ranch acquisition, phase II (350 acres)	\$300,000	\$400,000
FRIENDS OF THE ESTUARY		
#13 Bay Area creeks technical assistance	\$202,000	\$183,000
GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT		
#14 Vallejo River Park public access and enhancement	\$118,000	\$300,000
LANDPATHS		
#15 Mayacamas Ridge Trail construction	\$30,000	\$93,829
LAND TRUST FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY		
#16 Fundraising for Kirk property acquisition (see also Santa Clara County Open Space Authority)	\$25,000	\$0
MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST		
#17 Gale Ranch conservation easement (586 acres)	\$180,000	\$400,000
#18 Burbank Ranch conservation easement (325 acres)	\$150,100	\$150,000
MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY		
#19 Triangle Marsh acquisition (31 acres)	\$22,,000	\$50,000
MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT		
#20 Keig property acquisition (94 acres)	\$600,000	\$1,750,000

SUMMARY OF FUNDED PROJECTS

BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM FY 1999 APPROPRIATION (continued)

GRANT RECIPIENT/PROJECT	FUNDING	
	CONSERVANCY	MATCHING
MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT #21 Watersheds of Fairfax	\$100,000	TBD
MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST #22 Gustin property acquisition (80 acres)	\$103,942	\$97,000
NAPA COUNTY LAND TRUST #23 Newell Open Space Preserve acquisition/plan (640 acres)	\$116,000	\$2,500,000
#24 Quail Ridge Reserve acquisition (247 acres)	\$330,500	\$123,300
PACIFICA LAND TRUST #25 Picardo Ranch acquisition appraisal	\$7,000	TBD
PENINSULA OPEN SPACE DISTRICT/MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT #26 Bear Creek Redwoods acquisition (805 acres)	\$3,006,500	\$7,000,000
PORT OF OAKLAND #27 Middle Harbor park access feasibility study	\$100,000	\$27,500
SAN FRANCISCO BAY JOINT VENTURE #28 Operational funding	\$11,029	TBD
SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUNDS #29 San Francisco Bay Delta and Estuary Center pre-development	\$137,500	\$105,000
SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS OF RECREATION AND PARKS #30 Lake Merced enhancement and regional trail connections	\$100,000	\$572,230
#31 Parcel 4 coastal dune restoration and public access	\$100,000	\$100,000
#32 India Basin restoration -- phase III *	\$100,000	\$100,000
SAN MATEO COUNTY #33 Coastal Access--offer to dedicate	\$20,000	TBD
SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY #34 Kirk Property acquisition (534 acres)	\$475,000	\$1,459,000
SAVE MOUNT DIABLO #35 Silva property acquisition (435 acres)	\$400,000	\$350,000
SAVE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ASSOCIATION #36 Conoes in Sloughs watershed education program	\$50,000	\$122,000
SOLANO COUNTY FARMLANDS & OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION #37 King Ranch acquisition, phase I (500 acres)	\$1,000,000	\$251,000
SOUTHERN SONOMA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT #38 Sonoma Creek wetland enhancement project *	\$160,000	TBD
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY #39 Salminoid restoration assessment *	\$74,800	\$150,000
URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL #40 Baxter Creek restoration	\$45,000	TBD

GRANT RECIPIENT/PROJECT	FUNDING	
	CONSERVANCY	MATCHING
SAN FRANCISCO BAY JOINT VENTURE		
#43 Operational funding	\$10,000	TBD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT		
#44 Competitive grants (in progress)	\$2,500,000	\$8,415,000
CITY OF OAKLAND		
#45 Lake Merritt marsh restoration (final design and engineering)	\$90,000	\$15,000
COASTAL CONSERVANCY		
#8x Introduced <i>Spartina</i> eradication	\$149,000	TBD
#46 Hamilton wetlands restoration	\$502,000	TBD
MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY		
#19x Triangle marsh acquisition	\$225,000	\$835,000
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT		
#26x Bear Creek Redwoods acquisition (revolving loan)	\$3,000,000	TBD
MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST		
#22x Gustin Ranch acquisition	\$380,000	TBD
NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE		
#47 Big Break/Marsh Creek restoration and stewardship	\$231,000	\$177,000
SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS OF PARKS & RECREATION		
#30x Lake Merced Access Trail	\$450,000	TBD
SAN MATEO COUNTY		
#33x Coastal Access--Offers to Dedicate	\$55,000	TBD
SONOMA LAND TRUST		
#48 Sequeira Ranch acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,370,000

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL COUNCIL

Since 1987 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council has spearheaded efforts to develop a 400-mile trail system circling the Bay, providing spectacular views of the Bay Area and linking population centers with local, regional, state and federal parks and preserves. First year funding is supporting:

MARIN COUNTY: TRAIL LINK TO WHITE HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE (1)

Funding will lead to construction of Inkwell's Bridge over San Geronimo Creek, reducing roadway exposure to bicyclists and providing safe and dry creek crossing for all trail users. It will facilitate development of an eight-mile trail linking urban areas with numerous parks extending all the way to Point Reyes National Seashore.



Hikers on Sugarloaf Ridge in Sonoma County

SONOMA COUNTY: JACK LONDON STATE PARK (2)

This project will result in new trails in the Valley of the Moon through a cooperative effort that includes State Parks, Landpaths the Sonoma Development Center, and a volunteer corps for trail management.

NAPA COUNTY: TRAIL GAPS NEAR YOUNTVILLE (3)

The Ridge Trail Council will undertake planning and design and easement negotiations to add up to 18 miles of trails in and around Yountville, including segments through the California Veterans Home and on property owned by the Department of Fish and Game.

SOLANO COUNTY: LYNCH CANYON AREA (4)

This project will provide new and improved trails through the Lynch Canyon preserve, and connect to the town of American Canyon through the Jack and Bernice Newell open space donation (see page 9).

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY: FEEDER TRAIL (5)

This project will help connect lands owned by the Muir Heritage Land Trust with those of the East Bay Regional Park District, and help implement the long planned but never finished California Riding & Hiking Trail.



Funds would help open Lynch Canyon for hikers

ALAMEDA COUNTY: VARGAS PLATEAU (6)

The Council will work with the East Bay Regional Park District, Caltrans and others to determine the trail alignment connecting significant parklands north and south of Niles Canyon.

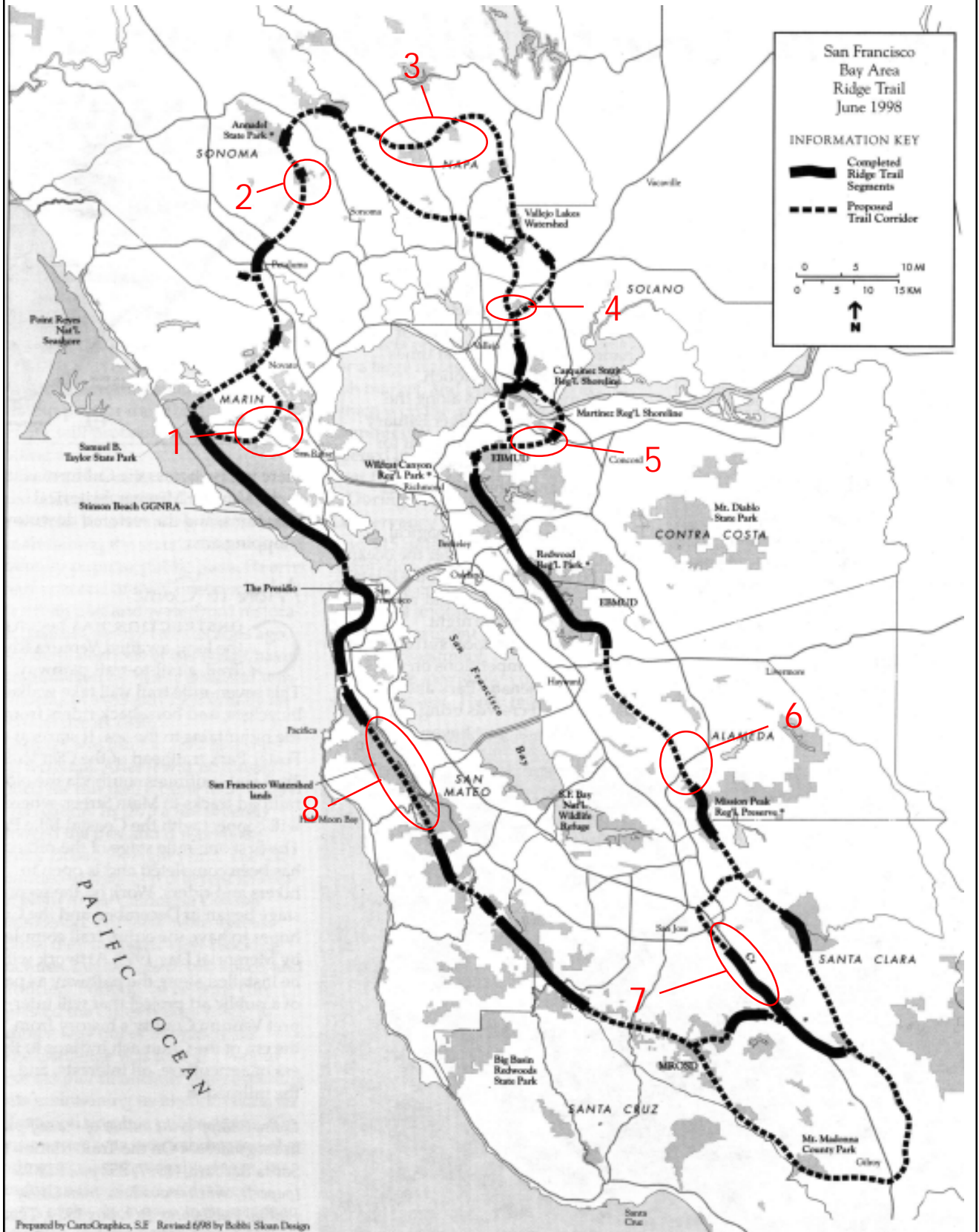
SANTA CLARA COUNTY: COYOTE CREEK PARKWAY (7)

The project will improve the existing alignment through a heavily urbanized part of San Jose, and provide an equestrian trail parallel to the existing paved bicycle and pedestrian path.

SAN MATEO COUNTY: CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATERSHED (8)

Funds will help open 10 miles of the Crystal Springs Watershed to hiking by working with the City of San Francisco to resolve water quality concerns. This is one of the most sought after uncompleted sections of the Ridge Trail.

LOCATION OF RIDGE TRAIL PROJECTS



CARQUINEZ REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

ELKHORN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Using a team of student and community volunteers, the Center will restore the lower portion of Elkhorn Creek in the Carquinez Regional Shoreline Park. The project involves removal of invasive non-native species, the replanting of native plants, and the reintroduction of Monarch butterflies in an area that was once well-known as a Monarch breeding colony.



Cordonices Creek is a neglected urban resource

CITY OF ALBANY

CORDONICES CREEK RESTORATION

Funds will support preparation of detailed engineering plans for a joint undertaking of the cities of Albany and Berkeley to restore a creek in a heavily urbanized industrial area, add a pedestrian-bicycle trail connecting the Ohlone Greenway and the Bay Trail, and advance a larger project that includes a variety of active recreational facilities. The creek restoration is a priority for the Urban Creeks Council and the Friends of Five Creeks.



Marsh Creek will start to regain its historic beauty

CITY OF BRENTWOOD

MARSH CREEK-GRIFFITH PARK

The rugged hills to the east of Mount Diablo feed Marsh Creek, but by the time this significant watercourse reaches the lowlands of eastern Contra Costa County, it is channelized and denuded. Taking advantage of a unique offer from an enthusiastic landowner, and the cooperation of several government agencies, funds will be used to restore a section of the creek, create a five acre nature park, and jump-start work on the long-term goal of enhancing the full length of the creek, constructing a parallel regional trail and reducing flood hazards.



View of Alamont Pass from near Brushy Peak

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

BOSLEY-WEAVER ACQUISITION

This 395-acre acquisition is the second of a three-phase open space purchase extending the Brushy Peak Regional Park Preserve. The full project will give permanent protection to 1,120 acres in the Alameda Creek Watershed, and secure important wildlife migratory and dispersal habitat. The area contains alkali seasonal wetlands and riparian communities, and also facilitates a two-county regional trail corridor between the cities of Livermore and Brentwood.



Clayton Ranch is a key link between Mt Diablo and Black Diamond Mine Parks

CLAYTON RANCH ACQUISITION

Funding will assist the purchase of 350 acres of the 1,027 acre Clayton Ranch east of Mount Diablo State Park, fronting on Marsh Creek Road. The entire ranch is being purchased in phases. Clayton Ranch is a critical part of the nearly completed wildlife/recreational corridor connecting the State Park with the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. Save Mount Diablo and the Park District are currently negotiating with the property owners of the last half-mile gap in this corridor. The property is wooded with many interspersed canyons, and supports at least 12 special status species, including the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

EAST SHORE STATE PARK PLANNING

The East Shore State Park is one of the most exciting and ambitious urban shoreline park projects ever undertaken. Now that most of the key acquisitions are complete, grant funds will be used to begin detailed resource and recreational facilities plans, and the important public outreach process.

FRIENDS OF THE ESTUARY

BAY AREA CREEKS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The nonprofit Friends of the Estuary will provide technical assistance to 30 creek organizations and 50 creek watersheds in the Bay Area. Drawing on expertise from nonprofit environmental groups, the Coastal Conservancy, Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture and local storm water management agencies, this grant will advance watershed planning and educate other agencies and organizations about effective restoration and monitoring practices.

GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT

VALLEJO RIVER PARK

Funding will enable the District to conduct an environmental assessment, prepare CEQA documentation and pay permit fees related to proposed public access and resource enhancement improvements to River Park in the City of Vallejo. Proposed public access improvements include 1.5 miles of new trails, a picnic area, a new parking lot, and a 2.5-acre recreational meadow. Proposed environmental improvements include protection and restoration of 36 acres of tidal marshes, 15 acres of saline emergent wetlands, and at least two acres of freshwater wetlands. A portion of the Bay Trail runs along the outer levee of River Park.



Vallejo River Park wetlands looking north



Proximity to Santa Rosa makes Mayacamas Ridge an ideal location for environmental education

LANDPATHS

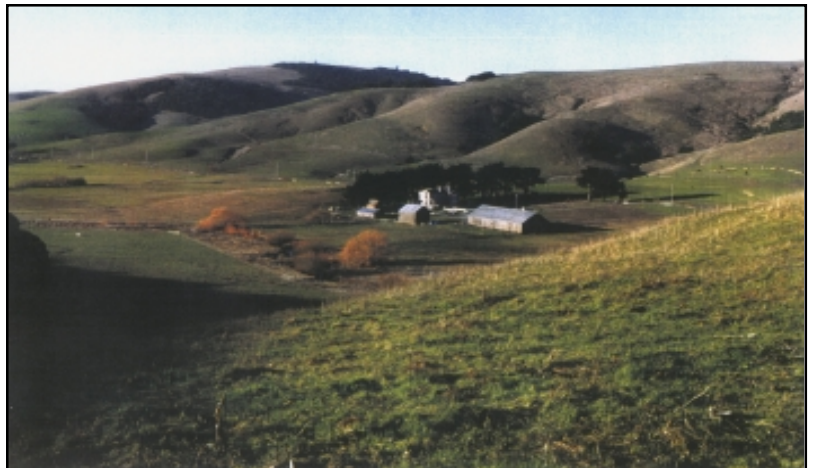
MAYACAMAS RIDGE TRAIL AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Funds will support a cooperative project by State Parks, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the nonprofit Landpaths organization to connect and preserve nearly 7,000 acres of open space spanning Mayacamas Ridge and straddling the border between Napa and Sonoma counties. The goal is a recreational and habitat connection between Hood Mountain Regional Park and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

GALE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The 586-acre Gale property located in the Chileno Valley is currently used for beef cattle. It straddles Chileno Creek, a tributary of Walker Creek, and in addition to its agricultural value, provides habitat for salmonids, neotropical songbirds, and other wildlife species. The ranch is contiguous with eight other MALT easements. Acquisition of this conservation easement continues progress toward the goal of protecting the agricultural character of western Marin County.



Gale Ranch nestled in the Chileno Valley

BURBANK CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The 325-acre Burbank ranch near the West Marin town of Tomales supports beef cattle and includes a 3/4 mile stretch of Stemple Creek, a portion of which contains the most intact riparian forest remaining on Stemple Creek. Visible from Highway 1, the Burbank ranch is an important part of West Marin's pastoral landscape. It is adjacent to three other MALT-protected agricultural properties, and within 1/4 mile of a fourth.



Burbank Ranch looking toward Petaluma

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

TRIANGLE MARSH ACQUISITION

This 31-acre site consists of significant wetland and upland habitat and provides a wildlife corridor between Ring Mountain Nature Preserve and San Francisco Bay. The Corte Madera Ecological Reserve is northwest of the site. Acquisition provides an opportunity to enhance seasonal wetlands and the upland transition zone, consistent with the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report.



Triangle Marsh with Mount Tamalpais in the distance

MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

KEIG PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Public acquisition of the 94-acre Keig property provides the opportunity to expand open space access and recreational and educational opportunities for local residents of Marin City as well as visitors to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Marin City is predominantly a minority community (59.6 percent African-American, 38.4 percent White and Hispanic). The Keig acquisition will, for the first time in the nation, place a national park immediately adjacent to federally owned public housing.

MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST

GUSTIN PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The 80-acre Gustin property acquisition is a critical step in the protection of Franklin Ridge southwest of Martinez and the completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Franklin Ridge includes nearly 7,000 acres in the Briones Hills Agricultural Preserve--a highly valued greenway surrounded by 14 cities. The Preserve was established by Contra Costa County in 1987 because of strong public support, but does not offer permanent protection to the land. Acquisition of the Gustin property extinguishes an approved subdivision that would have resulted in 1.5 miles of regional trail being paved for a driveway to serve new estate homes on the ridge. This trail is an important link to the California Riding and Hiking Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

NAPA COUNTY LAND TRUST

NEWELL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Grant funds paid for a management plan and transaction costs that made possible a 640-acre donation to the City of American Canyon and the donation of a conservation easement to the Napa County Land Trust. The donation will result in accessible public open space and protect natural habitat. The site is characterized by annual grasslands and coast live oak woodlands, and is home to the federally endangered Tiburon paintbrush. Located between the City of



Newell Open Space overlooking American Canyon

American Canyon and Lynch Canyon in Solano County, the property provides a connection to the Bay Area Ridge Trail serving the working class communities of American Canyon and Vallejo. Together with recent wetland acquisitions by the Port of Oakland on the western side of American Canyon, this acquisition forms a protected wildlife corridor of 10,000 acres extended eastward to Suisun Marsh.



The nearly pristine Quail Ridge Peninsula

QUAIL RIDGE RESERVE

ACQUISITION

This acquisition protects 247 acres of land for inclusion in the University of California's Natural Reserve System at Quail Ridge. The Reserve encompasses 2,400 acres of nearly pristine native habitat on a scenic peninsula reaching into Lake Berryessa, and provides educational and research opportunities. The project is a cooperative venture of the Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy, the University of California at Davis, and the Napa County Land Trust.

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

BEAR CREEK REDWOODS ACQUISITION

Funds enabled the completion of the acquisition of the 1,065 acre former Alma College site above Highway 17 south of Los Altos. The property will be owned and managed by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, protecting second-growth redwood and Douglas fir forest, riparian and wetland areas, and habitat for mountain lions and numerous special status plant and animal species. This scenic site also provides a key link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail and protects part of the Lexington Reservoir watershed.



The Bear Creek Redwoods offer spectacular views minutes from Silicon Valley

PORT OF OAKLAND

MIDDLE HARBOR PARK ACCESS

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Funding is supporting the preparation of a feasibility study to identify public access connections to the proposed Middle

Harbor Shoreline Park, to meet the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and users of public transit. Access issues are critical because of the remote location of Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, which is surrounded by heavy industry. The park, which will be managed by the East Bay Regional Park District, will provide much needed outdoor recreational facilities for the predominantly low-income West Oakland community, as well as contribute to the network of public access ways and bicycle routes to and along San Francisco Bay.

SAVE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ASSOCIATION

CANOES IN SLOUGHS WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAM

This innovative program, established in 1996, provides field trips into Bay Area marshes for middle and high school students and teachers and supports related educational activities. Conservancy funds will be matched with funds from the California Department of Boating and Waterways and many other public and private sources.



Students explore the Palo Alto baylands



The Bay Center is proposed for Pier 45

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUNDS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CENTER

Funds were used to conduct planning, economic analysis, preliminary architectural and structural engineering designs, and the development of conceptual education programs for a proposed educational and interpretive center on Pier 45. The center is sponsored by a grassroots alliance of concerned organizations and individuals including commercial fishing organizations, state and federal agencies, private sector businesses and nonprofit organizations.

SAN FRANCISCO RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

LAKE MERCED ENHANCEMENT AND REGIONAL TRAILS

Lake Merced, a natural lake in the highly urbanized southwestern part of the San Francisco, has over the years suffered declining water levels and water quality, and associated recreational facilities have deteriorated due to significant deferred maintenance. Grant funds will address the most pressing habitat and recreational needs, including developing a segment of the Coastal Trail.

PARCEL 4 COASTAL DUNE HABITAT AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Funds will be used to restore coastal dune habitat on this 1.69 acre site across from the Great Highway and adjacent to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The project also includes construction of a pathway and other public access amenities. Parcel 4 connects to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Sutro Heights Park and to the Coastal Trail.

INDIA BASIN -- PHASE III

Phase III will connect existing portions of the Bay Trail to the north with the Hunters Point Shipyard, and will also create a saltwater marsh and establish upland native vegetation. Additional funding is coming from the San Francisco Airport Authority.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

KIRK PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Acquisition of this 534-acre open space parcel adjacent to Alum Rock Park establishes a major spine link of the Bay Area Ridge Trail within the City of San Jose, provides a linkage to other existing trails, and represents a major step forward in plans to connect the highly popular Alum Rock and Ed Levin Parks. The property has five springs, mixed oak woodlands, chaparral and grasslands, and provides habitat for black-trailed deer, red tailed hawks, bobcats, mountain lions, tule elk, and a State-listed endangered plant species. The acquisition also helps secure a portion of the urban limit line established jointly by the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara. Partners in the project include the Land Trust for Santa Clara County and Trust for Public Land.

SAVE MOUNT DIABLO

SILVA RANCH ACQUISITION

The 437 acre Silva Ranch is strategically placed adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park and the Morgan Territory Regional Preserve of the East Bay Regional Park District. The ranch offers sweeping vistas of the exceptional oak woodlands and rugged terrain on the eastern flank of Mount Diablo. It's

acquisition will protect the wildlife corridor between existing parks, preserve habitat for numerous species including mountain lions and endangered red-legged frogs, and enhance recreational opportunities for the burgeoning population of the East Bay.



Silva Ranch offers sweeping views east of Mount Diablo

SOLANO COUNTY FARMLANDS & OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION

KING RANCH ACQUISITION, PHASE ONE

Funds will enable the purchase the first 500 acres of a planned acquisition of the 3,840-acre King and Swett Ranches owned by Pacific Gas and Electric. These unique ranch lands separating the cities



The King Ranch is strategically located in the mountains between Vallejo, Benicia and Fairfield overlooking Suisun Marsh

of Benicia, Vallejo and Fairfield are threatened with development. With their impressive views of San Pablo Bay and Suisun Marsh, these ranches are a key link of the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail. Their location in the "wind tunnel" between San Francisco Bay and the Central Valley also makes the area unusually rich habitat for raptors, as well as numerous endangered or threatened species, including the California red-legged frog, the giant garter snake, and the Callippe silverspot butterfly. Acquisition of these ranches supports a regional plan entered into between the County of Solano and the three adjacent cities to protect open space, promote local agriculture, provide outdoor recreation and preserve habitat.

SOUTHERN SONOMA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SONOMA CREEK WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Funds will be used for planning and technical work leading to the restoration of tidal wetlands on diked farmland, consistent with the goals of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture. Many properties in the area are already owned by the California Department of Fish and Game. Two endangered species--the California clapper rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse--will benefit from this expansion of their habitat.



Sediments, such as these deposited above the Pope Street Bridge, have adversely affected steelhead salmon

U.C BERKELEY

SALMINOID RESTORATION ASSESSMENT

This is the first phase of an interdisciplinary watershed assessment for the Napa River, which will be used to identify sedimentation causes, restoration measures and appropriate standards for water quality improvements, with a specific focus on factors limiting the production of steelhead and chinook salmon. The research is expected to provide an important scientific foundation for the implementation of new requirements to address water quality through a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loading) approach. Additional funding is being provided by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and staff support is being provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL PLANNING, MAPPING AND COORDINATION

Funds support the collaborative work of nearly 40 public agencies and nonprofit organizations active in the Bay Area Open Space Council, sharing expertise and resources, undertaking joint studies, and promoting cooperative efforts to promote regionally significant projects. The Council provides a conduit through which the Coastal Conservancy fulfills its legislative mandate to seek local input and build local partnerships in the implementation of the Bay Area Conservancy Program.

RELATED BAY AREA PROJECTS

The Coastal Conservancy has during the 1999-2000 fiscal year supported a variety of projects in the Bay Area which, while not utilizing Bay Area Conservancy Program funds, nonetheless serve related purposes. These include the following:

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Established through legislation carried by former Senator Bill Lockyer, the Bay Trail Project is the lead planning and coordinating organization for design and implementation of the Bay Trail. Funds are primarily being used to support a competitive grant program to assist local agencies and organizations implement segments of the Bay Trail within their jurisdiction.



Students learn about wetland ecology adjacent to the Bay Trail in the City of Hayward

CITY OF OAKLAND

LAKE MERRITT MARSH RESTORATION

Habitat Conservation Funds matched with local bond funds will pay for detailed planning and design work to create three tidal marshes in Lake Merritt, home to the oldest wildlife sanctuary in North America. The new marshes will add wildlife habitat and improve water quality, which has deteriorated because of urban runoff, decreased tidal action and the loss of wetland filtration. The marsh restoration is part of a larger project to improve San Francisco Bay Trail links to the Oakland Estuary.

NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE

BIG BREAK/MARSH CREEK RESTORATION AND STEWARDSHIP

Habitat Conservation Funds, together with local donations and East Bay Regional Park District funds, will be used to develop three inter-related restoration, stewardship, and public access plans for the Big Break shoreline in eastern Contra Costa County. Restoration of wetlands in this area is the first step in the establishment of the Delta Science Center -- a collaborative project of government, industry, environmentalists, educators and agriculture to develop an educational and research institution showcasing the habitat values of the western Delta. The project will benefit winter-run chinook salmon, delta smelt, Sacramento splittail, other native fishery resources, and waterfowl, neotropical migrant birds, and other species of plants and animals. It will also anchor 42 miles of East Bay Regional Park District trails, and help launch long-term plans to protect and restore the Marsh Creek watershed that encompasses most of the eastern half of Mount Diablo.

TEAM SPARTINA

INTRODUCED SPARTINA ERADICATION

Habitat Conservation Funds combined with other state and federal monies will support a regional approach to the control of introduced *Spartina*, a non-native cordgrass that is threatening to significantly transform mudflats and marshes throughout the region and eliminate much of their biotic richness and habitat value. *Spartina* currently has taken over about 1,000 acres of San Francisco bayland, and if not controlled is expected within a few years to spread to as much as 40,000 bayland acres. Team *Spartina* is an association of over a dozen public agencies and institutions.

BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

November, 2000

STEVE ABBORS, East Bay Municipal Utility District
ROSEMARY ALEX, Park Planner, Greater Vallejo Recreation District
JIM ANGELO, Director, Sonoma County Regional Parks
CHRISTINA BATT, Executive Director, Muir Heritage Land Trust
DOUG BELL, General Manager, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
BOB BERNER, Executive Director, Marin Agricultural Land Trust
KATE BICKERT, State Director, Rails to Trails Conservancy
FRANCES M. BRIGMANN, General Manager, Marin County Open Space District
CRAIG BRITTON, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
RON BROWN, Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo
MS. HARRIET BURGESS, President, American Land Conservancy
MARY BURNS, Director, Parks & Recreation Division, County of San Mateo
RICH BURNS, Area Manager, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
DAN CATHER, Open Space Superintendent, City of Walnut Creek
LAURA COHEN, California Policy Director, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
ROBERT DOYLE, Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District
HARRY ENGLEBRIGHT, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group
ELIZABETH GRAY, The Nature Conservancy
DAVID HANSEN, Landpaths
NADINE HITCHCOCK, Program Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
JOHN HOFFNAGLE, Executive Director, The Land Trust of Napa County
CLIFFORD JANOFF, Executive Director, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
DAVID KATZ, Executive Director, Sonoma Land Trust
MARGE KOLAR, Project Leader, San Francisco Bay NWR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ANDREA MACKENZIE, General Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & OSD
JANET MCBRIDE, Project Manager, San Francisco Bay Trail Project
DAVID MITCHELL, Manager--Park & Community Facilities Development, City of San Jose
TOM MOOERS, Policy Director, Greenbelt Alliance
PAM MUICK, Executive Director, Solano Cnty Farmlands & Open Space Fdn
JOHN NORWOOD, Executive Director, South Livermore Valley Agricultural Land Trust
BRIAN O'NEILL, Superintendent, Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area, National Park Service
CHRIS POWELL, President, Pacifica Land Trust
NANCY RICHARDSON, Executive Director, Land Trust for Santa Clara County
KAY ROBINSON, Park Superintendent, Henry Coe State Park
PAUL ROMERO, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Santa Clara
AUDREY RUST, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust
NANCY SCHAEFER, California Director, The Conservation Fund
SUSAN SMARTT, Executive Director, State Parks Foundation
FRED SMITH, Assistant City Manager, City of Brisbane
MIKE STALLINGS, Director, City of Daly City
BRIAN STEEN, Executive Director, Sempervirens Fund
JOHN STEERE, Coordinator, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
LLOYD WAGSTAFF, General Manager, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
TIM WIRTH, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land
DAN WILLIAMS, Director, Recreation, Open Space & Sciences, City of Palo Alto

STAFF

JOHN WOODBURY, Director
DARLA GUENZLER, Associate Director
BC CAPPS, Conservation Associate

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

LARRY COONS, retired General Manager, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
PAMELA WICINAS, former Executive Director, So. Livermore Valley Agricultural Land Trust